

somewhat dainty feeder, never shoots anything except for the pot. Yet, although the Spaniard would scorn to stalk a Chaffinch or a Redbreast from bush to bush, the number of Larks, Sparrows, and such like exposed in the markets of Spain is fully tenfold more than is to be found in those of Italy; and yet you see bands of small birds even in the most arid parts of Spain for individuals in Italy. The fertility of the soil must be pretty nearly equal in both countries; and my own idea is that, whereas the greater part of the small birds in Spain are taken by snares (*costillas*) or in nets, the Italian, who is never so happy as when he can let his gun off at anything, however insignificant, scares the birds out of the country by his incessant popping. But, whatever be the reason, even the mere tourist passing through by railway from Irun to Cadiz could hardly help observing that the general complaint of the absence of birds on the Continent by no means applies to Spain, which is, both in species of birds and individuals, one of the richest in Europe.

XXXVII.—*Additional Notes on various Indian Birds.*

By R. C. BEAVAN, Bengal Staff Corps, C.M.Z.S.

HAVING had the opportunity of making further observations on some of the species belonging to the groups included in my former "Notes" *, and especially in the earliest paper of the series, I think that a knowledge of them may be of use to those interested in Indian ornithology. As before, I follow the arrangement of Dr. Jerdon in his 'Birds of India,' and the numbers prefixed are the same as in that work.

84. *HIRUNDO FILIFERA*. Wire-tailed Swallow.

I have frequently heard from my late friend Dr. Scott that this Swallow occurs in some abundance about Umballah in certain seasons, and breeds there under culverts and road-bridges in that station; but I myself never observed it there, but did so in the cold weather of 1866, near Morar, Gwalior, when out on a fishing-excursion with my brother. It is a very beautiful

* Ibis, 1865, pp. 400-423; 1867, pp. 430-455; 1868, pp. 73-85, 165-181, 370-406; and (*Accipitres*) P. Z. S. 1868, pp. 390-402.

species when seen on the wing, flitting up and down the small streams as *H. rustica* does in England.

85. *HIRUNDO DAURICA*. Red-rumped Swallow.

I noticed this species, at Simla about the end of April 1866, now and then about the house, as if in quest of a place to build in; but apparently it does not breed until much later; for I found a nest which was built in the veranda of the dâk bungalow at Fagoo on the 2nd August, 1866. It was then but just finished, and the female had not yet begun to lay her eggs. The nest is like that of *H. rustica*, made of mud, but has a funnel-shaped entrance some four or five inches in length, continued from the top of the nest along the angle caused by the meeting of the wall and the roof. The female keeps inside the nest; and from the continued twittering which she made when visited by the male, I thought at first that the nest contained young; and it was not until I drove her out that I discovered my mistake. I observed this species at Simla up to September 15th, when I noticed that it was almost the only species visible, and still common. A specimen killed on the 18th June at Simla measured:—Length 6·625 in.; wing 4·5; tail (imperfect) 3; tarsus ·5; bill from front ·9375; extent 11·5. Bill black; legs dark reddish brown; claws black.

89. *COTYLE SINENSIS*. Indian Bank-Martin.

I observed this species in some abundance on the 1st April, 1866, when on the march from Umballah to Kalka, and within some ten or twelve miles of the latter place. They had apparently done breeding at this time of year. The following are the dimensions of two specimens then procured:—

Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Extent.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.
4·25	3·5	1·625	9·5	·4375	·2
4·375	3·7	1·75	10	·4375	·25

The wings exceed the tail by ·25 to ·375 in.; the irides are dark.

98. *CYPSELUS MELBA*. Alpine Swift.

At Simla, on the 15th September, 1866, my attention was drawn by my friend Colonel Gott to a large flight of these elegant birds, which were sporting about, at some height in the air, over the station. This was my first acquaintance with this species,

of which, however, Col. Tytler has in his collection specimens from this vicinity, noticed in his late paper (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 195), where he also mentions *Cypselus leuconyx* and *Acanthylis caudacuta*, which are two species that did not occur to me when at Simla in 1866, though the former may have done so; for I have a note that at Simla, on the 27th April, I observed a pair of Swifts which were all black, with only a white rump. At the time I ascribed them to

100. *CYPSELUS AFFINIS*. Common Indian Swift.

But it is possible, as I did not procure specimens, that they may have been *C. leuconyx* (Jerdon, B. Ind. i. p. 179). I may, however, here remark of *C. affinis*, that Col. Tytler procured specimens of this species, which I saw at Simla in 1866, from Mount Jacko in that station; and I see that he notes this species in his recent paper (*loc. cit.*).

104. *DENDROCHELIDON CORONATA*. Indian Crested Swift.

This species is that mentioned by Col. Tickell as no. 54 in his paper on the birds of Borabhum (*J. A. S. B. ii. p. 580*). My friend Mr. Sinclair, of the Bengal Revenue Survey, observed it plentifully about Maunbazar, in Maunbhoom, in February 1865.

109. *CAPRIMULGUS ALBONOTATUS*. Large Bengal Night-jar.

My dog caught a specimen on the ground on the 27th February, 1865. Its wing was 7.125, length to the end of wing 9 inches. The tail was pulled out by the dog. Dr. Jerdon's description of this species is very meagre, not mentioning the colour of the breast or underparts, or the white stripe, which extends for .75 in. on each side from the base of the bill, until it meets the white neck-patch. I venture to supply the deficiency. The abdomen and under wing-coverts are transversely barred with rufous and black. A semicollar of rufous and black feathers, tipped with white, extends below the white neck-patch, and below this the breast is of a beautiful mottled ashy-rufous hue. The rictal bristles, with the bases of a pure white colour, form a prominent feature in this bird. The primaries are handsomely mottled at their extremities.

I presented the eggs of this species to the Zoological Society of London (*P. Z. S. 1864, p. 375*), as well as those of two other

species, *C. asiaticus* and *C. monticolus*, all of which I procured *not* at Barrackpore, as there stated, but in the Maunbhoom district.

110. *CAPRIMULGUS MACRURUS*. Malay Night-jar.

A Night-jar killed by me at Moulmein on 23rd October, 1865, agrees tolerably well with Dr. Jerdon's description of this species, but has no white bars on the wings, and is perhaps therefore a female. The primaries are mottled at their tips. Length 11·75, wing 7·75, tail 6·5, tarsus ·625, extent 20, bill from front ·375 in. Dr. Jerdon says of this species (apparently as a distinction from *C. albonotatus*) that the whiskers are white at their base; but, as I have above mentioned, this feature is not a distinctive character.

112. *CAPRIMULGUS ASIATICUS**. Common Indian Night-jar.

On October 27th, 1865, a specimen of this species flew on board the steamer in which I then was, within sight of land, between Moulmein and Rangoon, in the middle of the day, together with a *Turtur cambayensis*; both birds left the vessel again after resting for a short time on the shrouds. It is commonly called the "Ice-bird" in India.

114. *CAPRIMULGUS MONTICOLUS*. Franklin's Night-jar.

A specimen procured by me on March 9th, 1865, measured:—length 10·25; wing 8, tail barely 5, tarsus ·875, extent 23·25 in.

115. *HARPACTES FASCIATUS*. Malabar Trogon.

This is noted by Col. Tickell as *Trogon duvaucelii* in his paper on the birds of Borabhum and Dhulbhum (J. A. S. B. ii. p. 580). He there says of it:—"The solitary specimen seen was killed near Dampára Dholbhúm. It frequents the thickest jungle at the bottom of ravines and dried rocky nalas, flying from tree to tree, with a wild querulous note like the mewing of a cat. It pursues and catches insects on the wing, like the *Muscicapæ*: the stomach of the present specimen was crammed with them."

* In Dr. Jerdon's description of this species (B. Ind. i. p. 197), after the words "the outermost feathers," in line 11 from the top, ought to be inserted the words "of the tail."

HARPACTES ORESCIUS*.

I procured this handsome Trogon in Burmah, on Korkarit Island, in the middle of the river Salween, on the 17th August 1865. Its dimensions were as follows:—Length 11, wing 4·625, tail 6·75, tarsus ·5, bill from front ·625, extent 13 inches. The bill and skin of the eyes and feet were bright blue in colour. The head, throat and neck a greenish-yellow, extending to halfway down the breast, where it is met by orange-yellow, which latter merges into bright yellow on the belly and under tail-coverts. The back and upper tail-coverts are of a rufous-maroon. The wings are banded with black and white; the tail is black, with its outer feathers tipped with white, and some of them white for a considerable distance along their length. This beautiful Trogon lives in the thick forest jungle, where there is but little underwood and progression is easy for the naturalist, and is found in flocks or small parties of eight or ten. Each bird seems, however, to forage entirely “on his own hook”; it suddenly darts out from the tree it may be seated on, seizes an insect, and, after devouring it on a branch, sits there so very silently and quietly that it is next to impossible to see it. They are not shy; but the colour of their plumage assimilates so closely to that of the surrounding foliage that observation is very difficult in consequence. The female resembles the male in plumage, but is altogether more dully coloured. Having previously expended all my shot, I killed one with a bullet; but it was too much knocked about to preserve.

117. MEROPS VIRIDIS. Common Indian Bee-eater.

Occurs about Moulmein during the whole of the rainy season; but although residing there from July 2nd to October, 1865, I did not observe it breeding there. I mention this with reference to Dr. Jerdon’s statement that “Mr. Blyth observed them breeding near Moulmein as late as the middle of August.”

122. NYCTIORNIS ATHERTONI. Blue-necked Beetle-eater.

I procured my first specimen of this handsome bird at Moul-

* Cf. Lord Walden’s paper on birds collected by me in the Tenasserim provinces of Burmah (P. Z. S. 1866, pp. 537–556).

mein on the 21st September, 1865, in Col. Brown's garden, in the evening. It was seated on the dead bough of a tree which overhung the tank, from which it sallied forth every few minutes, like the ordinary Bee-eater, and returned to its perch with an insect. At first I mistook it for a species of *Dicrurus*, as its green plumage looked dark in the absence of sunlight. It allowed me to approach within easy shot, without seeming at all annoyed by my presence. The measurements of my specimen differ considerably from those given by Dr. Jerdon:—Length 13·125, wing 5·125, tail barely 5, tarsus ·5, bill from front 1·75, tail beyond wing 3·5 in.,—giving a difference of ·875 in. in the whole length, and of ·375 in. in the wing, which is a good deal.

N. amicta, although said by Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. i. p. 212) to inhabit Burmah, did not, however, occur to me in that country. I fancy it will in all probability be found somewhere to the south of Moulmein.

124. CORACIAS AFFINIS. Burmese Roller.

Tolerably common about Moulmein, but very wary and difficult to approach. I however managed to get a specimen at Tonquine on the 23rd September, 1865, of which I subjoin the dimensions:—Length 13·25, wing 7·375, tail 5·125, tarsus barely 1, bill 1·375 in. Legs dirty yellow, claws black, irides brown, bill black.

127. HALCYON LEUCOCEPHALUS*. Brown-headed Kingfisher.

Dr. Jerdon says of this species that the legs are "dull scarlet;" but in specimens procured by me at the Andamans, in June 1865, they were of a bright coral-red colour (*cf.* Ibis, 1865, pp. 407, 408); and the lower mandible of the bill is of the same colour, but rather darker towards the tip.

129. HALCYON FUSCUS. White-breasted Kingfisher.

Procured by me from Mount Harriet, on the Andaman Islands, on June 19, 1865 (Ibis, 1867, p. 319); again on the Thatong Creek, in the Martaban district of Burmah, on the 4th October in the same year; and again at Solon, on the cart-

* *Cf.* Lord Walden's paper on my Tenasserim birds (P.Z.S. 1866, pp. 537–556).

road to the plains, about thirty miles from Simla, in the N.W. Himalayas, at an elevation of from 4000 to 5000 feet. The last I shot from a tree overhanging a tank in the middle of the village, on the 18th October, 1866.

130. *HALCYON ATRICAPILLUS*. Black-capped Purple Kingfisher.

I found this species tolerably abundant about the tidal creeks and rivers at Moulmein in 1865. A specimen, a male by dissection, was procured by me there in very fine and perfect plumage, on the 14th of September in that year. Its dimensions were as follows:—Length barely 12, wing 5, tail 3·25, exceeding the wing, when closed, by 2·25; tarsus ·5625, bill from front 2·375 in. Irides dark brown; bill and legs coral-red, the latter with a darker tinge above; the claws brown-black. The breast-feathers in this specimen have slight dark fringes or pencillings on them; the throat is a pure white, which is met below by a rufous semicollar. This latter colour meets on the abdomen, and extends thence throughout the lower parts to the lower tail-coverts. I shot this specimen in Col. Brown's garden at Moulmein.

132. *TODIRHAMPHUS COLLARIS*. White-collared Kingfisher.

In a former notice of this species (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 313) a slight mistake occurs; the bill should have been said to be 1·625 in. in length, instead of 1·52.

134. *ALCEDO BENGALENSIS*. Common Indian Kingfisher.

I procured a single specimen in November 1866, at Umballah, where, however, it is far from common.

140. *HOMRAIUS BICORNIS*. Great Hornbill.

Col. Brown had one about two-thirds grown, in captivity, at Moulmein, in July 1865. It lived chiefly on plantains, which it ate voraciously, catching them when thrown into the air, and then with a gulp swallowing them down. It made a horrid loud noise when hungry, the voice sounding like the "hough! hough!" of a troop of monkeys when they see an enemy in the jungles. The Burmese call this species "*Oukchingèè*" (Big Hornbill), and sometimes also "*Yonia*." I observed several spe-

cimens in the forest which covers Horkarit Island in the river Salween, in August, 1865.

142. *HYDROCISSA ALBIROSTRIS*. Bengal Pied Hornbill.

I observed this species in Maunbhoom as especially abundant near Ambekanuggur, and in Burmah still more so, along the banks of the river Salween. In the latter situation I generally observed them in small parties of six or eight. They made a tremendous noise in the jungles. "*Ouk-chin*" is the Burmese name, although sometimes called "*Ouk-chin-ge-lay*" (Little Hornbill) in contradistinction to the preceding species.

144. *MENICEROS BICORNIS*. Common Grey Hornbill.

At Umballah on 16th November, 1866, I procured a specimen, the dimensions of which exceed those given by Dr. Jerdon. They are as follows:—Length 23·25 in., wing (not stretched out at all) 8·5 in., tail 12·5, tarsus 1·7, spread of foot underneath 3·25, bill from front 3·75, from gape 3·875, extent about 29 in., the last measurement being the only one wherein Dr. Jerdon's dimensions exceed mine, which were taken from the bird in the flesh.

147. *PALÆORNIS ALEXANDRI*. Alexandrine Parrakeet.

Noticed by the late Dr. Scott as abundant at Umballah in August, 1867, but a merely temporary visitor at that station, and apparently arriving there just after the young birds of the year are flown. Most specimens are then in bad plumage. In what part of India does this species breed? I never observed it doing so in the Maunbhoom district.

148. *PALÆORNIS TORQUATA*. Rose-ringed Parrakeet.

This species is excessively abundant about gardens at Umballah in the cold weather, and in March I saw one or two pairs breeding there in holes of trees. They are a great nuisance when close to a house, as their harsh shriek is peculiarly disagreeable when uttered every few seconds. Their eggs were hatched about the 25th March, and one of them measured 1 inch by 1·28 in. At Barrackpore in 1864 this species was still pretty common up to 2nd September.

149. *PALÆORNIS ROSA*. Rose-headed Parrakeet.

In Burmah, on the 18th September, 1863, I noticed a large Parrakeet (which, however, might perhaps have been *P. alexandri*) common in flocks, with a loud and melancholy cry. It roosted on the islands in the Salween and Gyné rivers, near Moulmein. However, as I could not procure a specimen, I am not certain. On the 11th October, I shot one of a pair of Parrakeets which I observed on the top of a high cassia tree in Col. Brown's garden, which I referred at the time to *P. schisticeps*; but Dr. Jerdon on seeing my description said it was most likely to have been *P. rosa*.

This specimen, by dissection a male, measured as follows :—length 12, wing 5·25, tail 6·5, tarsus 4·375, bill from front 6·25, extent 15 inches. Dr. Jerdon, in his description of *P. schisticeps* (B. Ind. i. p. 261), says that the tip of the bill and the lower mandible are yellow—a statement apparently quoted from Horsfield (Cat. B. Mus. E. I. Co. p. 615). In my specimen the lower mandible is of a dark slate-colour, and the tip of the upper mandible barely darker than the rest, which is yellow, darkest near the base of the bill. The measurements of my specimen do not agree well with those given by Dr. Jerdon for either species; nor does he mention Burmah as a habitat of *P. schisticeps*, although it is included by Dr. Mason ('Burmah,' &c., 8vo, Rangoon: 1860, p. 179), who speaks of it as a "Parakeet common in Nepaul, where it was found and described by Mr. Hodgson. It was supposed to be confined to the 'Sub-Himalayan region exclusively,' but it was recently shot in Pegu by Major Phayre." I was inclined before dissection to think that my specimen was possibly a female of *P. rosa*; but the sex being male, and the fact that its mate (there were only a pair), seen through a powerful glass, had the same coloured head as this, made me consider that it belonged to the true *P. schisticeps*.

150. PALÆORNIS SCHISTICEPS. Slaty-headed Parrakeet.

Specimens in the flesh from Simla measure as follows:—

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from gape.	Extent.
Adult	17	6·5	10·75	·625	·75	18·5
Young	12·25	6·125	6·25	·625	·75	17
	12·25	5·875	6	·625	·6875	16·5
					2 F 2	

In the adult the head is dark slate-colour, quite different in hue from that of the female of *P. rosa*, which has it of a very much lighter colour. The black edging to the lavender-colour on the nape is very narrow—a mere line, in fact; and next to it is a patch of bright verditer-green, which gradually blends with the ordinary green of the back. At the base of the primaries is a bright yellow spot, brighter in some specimens than in others. The bill is as described by Dr. Jerdon, except that the upper mandible is conspicuously coral-red tipped with yellow, the legs and claws being of a dirty light yellowish-green.

The preserved young, killed 2nd June, 1866, have merely a trace of the slate-colour on the head, mixed with the otherwise green feathers, no wing-spot, and the yellow below the tail of a much duller hue. The blue and yellow on the tail above are very slight.

153. LORICULUS VERNALIS. Indian Lorikeet.

I procured specimens of this pretty little bird on the banks of the river Salween, in Burmah, on the 18th August, 1865, and noticed that the irides are white in some examples, and light-brown in others—probably young birds; the bill in all was orange; the legs yellow. Specimens in the flesh measured, length 5·25 to 5·5, wing 3·375 to 3·5, tail 1·375 to 1·5, extent 9·75 to 10·25, bill from front nearly ½ in.

154. PICUS HIMALAYANUS. Himalayan Pied Woodpecker.

I give the measurements of a male and female—the former killed by myself at Mahasoo, near Simla, on the 2nd October, 1866, and the latter by Col. Tytler at Simla, 21st June.

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.	Spread foot.	Extent.
♂.	9·25	5	3·45	·875	1·1875	1·875	14·75
♀.	9·25	5	3·625	·75	1·25	1·75	13·75

The irides in both sexes are of a reddish-brown colour, the bill is dark slate- or lead-colour in the female, the legs dark dirty-green, with lead-coloured claws. The species is not very abundant about Simla.

159. PICUS BRUNNEIFRONS. Brown-fronted Woodpecker.

This species on the contrary is the most abundant of its genus at Simla and in its immediate neighbourhood. I procured a

pair there on 11th April, 1866, and a second female a month later, of which I subjoin the dimensions.

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.	Extent.	Spread foot.
♂.	8·125	4·5	3	·75	1	13·8	1·625*
♀.	7·625	4·25	3	·6875	·875	13	1·375
♀.	7·625	4·375	2·875	·6875	·875	12·5	..

The irides in both sexes are reddish brown. The middle tail-feathers exceed the rest by $\cdot 5$, $\cdot 25$, and $\cdot 625$ respectively.

A species of Woodpecker, procured by me in Burmah at Schway-goon, on the banks of the river Salween, on the 8th August, 1866, is referable either to *Picus atratus*, Blyth, or *Yungipicus canicapillus*, Blyth (cf. J. A. S. B. xviii. p. 803), probably the latter, as the whole length of the former is in the place referred to given as 8 inches? The dimensions of my specimen are as follows:—Length 5, wing 3, tail 1·5, tarsus ·5, extent 9, bill from front ·625 in. The head is ash-coloured, the neck black with a few crimson feathers, a white elongated patch behind the eye, ear-coverts hair-brown, back banded with white and black, irides reddish-brown, wing black with white spots, five on each quill, lower back and rump white with rather confused black bars; the breast is hair-brown with elongated black centres to the feathers, which are also of a peculiar hair-like texture, tail brownish, obscurely barred, bill horn-coloured, legs greenish.

What, may I here ask, is the *Yungipicus moluccensis* from Malacca and Java, mentioned by Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. i. p. 279)? is it the *Picus malaccensis* of Latham, described anew by Mr. Blyth (J. A. S. B. xiv. p. 192)?

166. CHRYSOCOLAPTES SULTANEUS. Golden-backed Woodpecker.

Dr. Jerdon gives the length of this species as about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, meaning probably $12\frac{1}{2}$. I am nearly sure that I procured this fine species in the valley of the Great Rungeet River, near Darjeeling, in 1860–61; but, as I made no notes, I have no positive proof to support my supposition.

* Dr. Jerdon gives the spread of the foot as $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; but that is evidently meant, I should imagine, for $1\frac{3}{4}$.

170. *GEVINUS SQUAMATUS*. Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker.

This species was abundant about Simla in April 1866, and the plaintive call "tec-ah-tee" of the male was repeatedly heard throughout the pine-woods. I procured specimens of both sexes, of which I subjoin the dimensions :—

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.	Extent.
April 11, ♂.	14	6.25	5.25	1.125	1.75	17.5
May 10, ♀.	13.5	6.25	5	1.0625	1.75	18.5

The irides in both sexes are the same—a circle of dark pinkish-red round the black pupil, surrounded by a second ring of light pink. The bill has the upper mandible horn-coloured at the base, the tip and the whole of the lower mandible being of a brightish yellow. I did not observe the black line on each side of the chin and throat mentioned by Dr. Jerdon; the cheek-stripe in the male was of a mixed black and white; the upper tail-coverts in the same bird are of bright glistening greenish-yellow, and the end of the crest, where it meets the green of the neck, is slightly tipped with yellow.

On the 10th May I found the nest of this species with young ones; it was a round hole in the trunk of the common Simla cedar (*Cedrus deodara*), apparently dug out by the bird itself, and too small to admit even the small hand of a native boy, so that I was unable to get a sight of the young.

GEVINUS VIRIDANUS, Blyth, was procured by me at the foot of Zwagaben, a limestone hill, described by me in a letter to the Zoological Society (P. Z. S. 1866, p. 2). Length 12.5, wing 5.5, tail 4.75, tarsus 1, bill from front 1.5, extent 16 in. Irides dark purple, bill dark horn-colour above, greenish-yellow beneath, excepting the tip, which is (as usual in this genus) darker; the legs and claws are of a dull greenish-yellow colour (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1866, pp. 537–556).

173. *CHRYSOPLHAGMA FLAVINUCHA*. Large Yellow-naped Woodpecker.

The late Dr. Scott noted this species from Nepaul, and appears to have received it from his great friend Dr. Wright, who used to collect birds for him there—to the best of my knowledge, in the neighbourhood of Katmandhu.

180. *BRACHYPTERNUS AURANTIUS*. Golden-backed Woodpecker.

Besides the localities before mentioned by me (Ibis, 1865, p. 411), this species was also procured by me at Ambekanuggur, in the Maunbhoom district of the Chota Nagpore division, in 1865.

184. *CHRYSONOTUS INTERMEDIUS*. Common Three-toed Woodpecker.

A specimen of this species was killed by me at Kulwee, near Moulmein, in the Tennasserim provinces of Burmah, on a wild mango tree on the 7th September, 1865. Its dimensions in the flesh were as follows:—Length 11·25, wing 5·5, tarsus ·8125, bill from front 1·25, expanse 1·4, tail 3·625, hind toe 1. Irides a dark reddish-brown. This specimen does not appear to differ, except in its dimensions, from Dr. Jerdon's description of *C. shorii* (B. Ind. i. p. 298).

186. *VIVIA INNOMINATA*. Speckled Piculet.

Dr. Jerdon says that this species is found throughout the Himalayas, and "in no other locality that I am aware of." But an observation of Mr. Blyth (J. A. S. B. 1859, p. 416) shows that it also occurs in Burmah. I procured a specimen at Simla on the 3rd July, 1866, which is now, I believe, in Col. Tytler's collection. The dimensions of the bird in the flesh were as follows:—Length 4·125, wing 2·25, tail 1·25, tarsus ·4375, spread of foot 1·0625, bill from front 1·4375, from gape ·5, extent 7 inches. Legs light blue; bill bluish lead-colour; irides apparently brown. The tongue of this species, as Dr. Jerdon remarks, is like that of a Woodpecker, having several barbs along the extremity, resembling in this respect many of the arrows manufactured by savage nations, who doubtless conceived their first idea of such a weapon by being struck by the form of a Woodpecker's tongue; at least such is my opinion.

191. *MEGALÆMA VIRENS*. Great Barbet.

Several specimens of this gaily plumaged bird were procured by me at Simla in 1866. The first specimen, killed on the 8th May, had the bill orange-yellow at the base, the rest being of a light greenish-yellow, and the terminal ·875 in. of the upper

mandible of a purplish-blue. The irides are dark brown, the legs a light plumbeous-green, with lead-coloured claws, and the soles of the feet a dirty yellow—in some dirty white, with bluish-horny claws; but of course these soft colours are not likely to appear exactly the same in every individual killed, since they begin to fade so soon after death; hence the discrepancy. The dimensions are as follows:—

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.	Extent.
May 8th.	13·25	5·9	4	1·125	1·5	18
July 1st.	12·5	5·5	3·875	1·25	1·375	16·75

the height of the bill at the base in the latter specimen being ·5625 in. Dr. Jerdon's description of the call of this species is very good.

197. XANTHOLEMA INDICA. Crimson-breasted Barbet.

The dimensions of a specimen procured at Moulmein in September 1865, agree fairly with those recorded (Ibis, 1865, p. 412*) from Maunbhoom. Length 6·625, wing 3·375, tail 1·75, tarsus ·75, extent 10·5 in. In December 1864, as I was passing through a tope or grove of mango-trees in Maunbhoom, I heard a loud "tap-tap" in one of the trees, as if a Woodpecker was hard at work. Being anxious to secure it, if possible, I tried in vain for some time to discover its whereabouts, but at last spied the author of the noise, clinging to the underside of a middle-sized bough, and pecking at the wood. I shot it in the act, and it turned out to be a bird of this species. The fact of the Barbets tapping wood with their beak is doubted by Dr. Jerdon†; but in this case there can be no question about the matter. Its stomach, however, on examination contained only fruit and seeds; but there was nothing to be found in its crop, so that it evidently was not feeding at the time I killed it.

200. CUCULUS HIMALAYANUS. Himalayan Cuckoo.

The following is a description of a specimen procured at Simla

* The native name of this bird is "Phoonk-bussunt," from *phoonkna*, to sound, and *bussunt*, an old woman (*vide* Jerdon, B. Ind. i. p. 313),—not "Phoouk bussunt."

† The Doctor, however (*tom. cit.* p. 307), says that he believes "they excavate holes [in trees] for themselves, though this has been doubted;" if so, the process would probably necessitate some tapping.

on July 1st, 1866, and regarded by Col. Tytler as the young of this species:—Very dark, almost black, banded with white on the head, nape, breast, thighs, and under tail-coverts; less white on the throat and upper breast; back, wings, upper tail-coverts, and tail banded with rufous, but most of the feathers have white edges; bill black; gape orange; orbital skin, legs, and claws light-yellow; the orbits appear to have been originally of a pinkish-brown colour; the nostrils are peculiar—circular, and raised as a kind of rim with a little detached yellow spot inside, which is also raised. Length of this specimen in the flesh 11·125, wing 6·5, tail 5·45, tarsus ·75, spread of foot underneath, including the two outer toes, 1·875, bill from front ·6875, bill from gape 1·0625, extent 17·5 in. In my opinion this was certainly not a nestling, but it may have been a bird of the year before its first moult.

205. *HIEROCOCCYX VARIUS*. Common Hawk-Cuckoo.

At Barrackpore, on the 27th September, 1864, I fired at what I thought was a Hawk, and killed it on the wing. It turned out to be only a fine specimen of this species. All the small birds in the vicinity seemed quite scared at its presence. Dr. Jerdon also says that small birds often mistake this species for the Shikra (*Micronisus badius*), and pursue it under that impression.

207. *HIEROCOCCYX SPARVERIOIDES*. Large Hawk-Cuckoo?

A fine specimen, procured at Simla in 1866, was considered by me to belong to this species, though Col. Tytler referred it to *Cuculus himalayanus*. Notwithstanding that it does not agree at all well with Dr. Jerdon's measurements of *H. sparverioides*, being, except in the length of the wing, a considerably smaller bird, I cannot help thinking that Col. Tytler was mistaken in his identification of this bird. Length 14·25, wing 9·0625, tail (slightly abraded) 6·75, tarsus ·875, spread of foot underneath 1·5, bill from front 1, bill from gape 1·25, extent 24 inches. The irides, fleshy orbits, and gape are orange-yellow; upper mandible black; the lower yellow at its base, then green, and the tip black; the legs are of a lighter orange-yellow than the gape. The dimensions seem to agree best with those of *C.*

varius; but this is apparently not found in the hills. Perhaps it is *C. striatus* of Drapiez? (Jerd. no. 204); but Mr. Blyth (Ibis, 1866, p. 359) makes this the same as *C. himalayanus* (Jerd. no. 200).

209. POLYPHASIA TENUIROSTRIS. Rufous-bellied Cuckoo.

The specimen before mentioned by me (Ibis, 1865, p. 413) as killed at Barrackpore was shot there in September, not October. Its stomach was filled with caterpillars and other soft insects. The feet were of a light yellow, inclined to greenish above; the claws sharp and black; the upper mandible and the tip of the lower was brownish-black, the gape and the rest of the lower mandible of a reddish-brown colour. This example was probably peculiar in its markings, the primary coverts of the wings being white; its length was 9.25. The dimensions of another specimen, shot at Moulmein on the 28th August, 1865, were as follows:—Length 8.875, wing 4.25, tarsus .625, bill from front .625, extent 11 inches. Irides of a dull or brown-red colour, the legs yellow, with a greenish tinge on their upper parts.

212. COCCYSTES MELANOLEUCUS. Pied Crested Cuckoo.

Three specimens were brought to me by my native shikarry, at Simla, in July 1866. I notice this fact because Dr. Jerdon does not record this species from the Himalayas.

215. ZANCLOSTOMUS TRISTIS. Large Green-billed Melkoha.

A specimen of this bird was procured by me at Tongwine, a small village near Moulmein, on the 23rd of September, 1865. Its dimensions in the flesh were as follows:—Length 22.375 in., wing 6.25 in., tail (rather abraded) .15 in., tarsus 1.375 in., bill from front 1.25 in. The irides were dark brown; the colour of the soft parts as described by Dr. Jerdon.

220. TACCOCUA SIRKEE. Bengal Sirkeer.

This species was apparently procured by the late Dr. Scott, at Umballah, as it is included in the list of the birds sent thence by him to the Montrose Museum.

223. ARACHNOTHERA MAGNA. Large Spider-hunter.

A specimen of this species in fine plumage was procured by

me on the 14th of August, 1865, at Kyodan, on the Salween river, more than a hundred miles above Moulmein; I shot it in the act of feeding (probably on insects) in the inside of the large flower of a plantain (*Musa*, sp.?). Its dimensions were as follows:—Length 7·5, wing 3·5, tarsus ·75, tail 1·95, bill from front 1·7, extent 10·5 in. The irides were dark brown, the bill black, and the legs bright orange-yellow, the general colour being a dark green, with the feathers centred with black.

225. *ÆTHOPYGA MILES*. Himalayan Red Honey-sucker.

I procured a fine specimen of this beautiful bird at Moulmein on the 1st of September, 1865. It measured as follows:—Length 4·875, wing 2·125, tail 1·75, tarsus ·5, bill from front ·75, extent 6·25 in. Tail not fully developed; and none of the feathers in it are scarlet. This species frequents flowering trees, especially the *Amherstia*—and also low bushes and annuals near the ground, when in flower. On the 22nd of September, 1865, I obtained a specimen at Moulmein, on *Costus argyrophyllus*, a common weed there; I also observed it on my trip up the river Salween, in villages, feeding on the flowers of the cocoa-nut palm; its note is a loud piping. The yellow striæ on the breast occur in this species as well as in the next to be mentioned; they are formed by the base of the scarlet feathers being tinged with yellow in a lanceolate shape.

227. *ÆTHOPYGA GOULDIÆ*. Purple-tailed Red Honey-sucker.

A specimen of this beautiful bird was sent to me at Simla, by Capt. Begbie, who shot it near Kotgurh, some fifty miles in the interior, on the great Hindostan and Thibet road, but, I fancy, low down at that place, in the valley of the Sutledge river; for I do not think that this species frequents high elevations, although sometimes in the summer found at Simla, where I killed a male on the 12th of August, 1866. It was in my garden, feeding on the flowers of *Hibiscus*. Length 5·875, wing 2·25, tail 2·875, tarsus ·5, spread of foot underneath ·8125, bill from front ·5625, from gape ·6875, extent 6·5 in. Irises brown; bill and legs dark brown, the former being almost black. The yellow on the breast has a few scarlet marks; and the purple so-called “shoulder-tuft” is not on the

shoulder of the wing, as hinted by its name, but above it, on the lower portion of the neck.

NECTARINIA FLAMMAXILLARIS, Blyth.

A specimen, apparently a young male, of this species was procured by me at Moulmein, on July 10th, 1865. Tail black, the two outer feathers on each side tipped with white, the second on the inner web only; the back and rump dark olive-green, wings darker, a faint yellow streak over the eye, orange spot on axillaries, throat bluish purple, with a yellow edging extending from the base of the lower mandible; breast, belly and under tail-coverts bright yellow; irides dark brown; bill, legs and claws black. Feeds on flowers, seen alone or in pairs. A specimen, probably an adult male, killed at Moulmein, on September 14th, 1865, has the following dimensions:—Length 4·5, wing 2·125, tail 1·45, tarsus ·5, bill from front ·6875, extent 6·25 in. It has a distinct semicircle of dull brick-red on the breast, below the steel-blue throat; below it, again, there are a few black feathers; the belly and under tail-coverts are bright yellow. The tail has its two middle feathers black, and the outer three on each side tipped with white decreasing inwardly. Irides reddish-brown, feet and legs black. The female of this species is of a pale olive-green colour, with a yellow breast, and wants the purple throat of the male.

NECTARINIA HASSELTII (Temm.).

A fine specimen of the male of this bird, which is apparently rather rare at Moulmein, was procured by me at Moulmein, in Col. Brown's garden there, on the 30th of August, 1865:—Length 3·87, wing nearly 2, tarsus ·4375, tail 1·25, bill from front ·5, extent 5 in. Irides dark-brown; bill and legs black. The head and nape are bright metallic golden-green; upper back black, the upper wing coverts, middle of back and upper tail-coverts bright glistening purple, with green and blue reflections; the outer webs of the tail-coverts are of the same colour; from the nostril through the ear-coverts to the upper back the colour is black, the neck and throat being of a brilliant amethystine with purple reflections; the breast and upper belly are dark maroon-red, the lower belly, under tail-coverts and

thighs dull brown; wings dark brown; tail underneath black. Its note is a low piping call.

234. *ARACHNECHTHRA ASIATICA*. Purple Honey-sucker.

The following are the dimensions taken of two females in their ashy-grey or breeding-plumage, killed in Maunbhoom on the 27th of March, 1865, with their nests:—

Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.
4	2·125	1·25	·5	·75
4·25	2·125	1·375	·5	·75

They had black bills, and legs nearly of the same colour, but with a bluish tinge; and there was no white on the throat; so that at first I thought that they were females of *Leptocoma zeylonica* (Jerd. no. 232); but after a careful comparison I assigned them to this species.

Some specimens shot at Umballah, October 31st, 1866, where the species is abundant, were in the plumage of the *Cinnypis curruccaria*, Sykes, which I am not aware that I observed before in Maunbhoom. In it there is no trace of an axillary streak. The wings, tail, and ventral stripe are glossy purple, which appears to be all that is left of the breeding-plumage of the male. I noticed the species breeding in gardens at Umballah—I think, in February 1865.

236. *DICEUM COCCINEUM*. Scarlet-backed Flower-pecker.

Moulmein seems to be the head quarters of this species; for I found it abundant there in 1865, and in July and August I procured several. Of three of these I subjoin the measurements in the flesh. It is very difficult to obtain good specimens of this species, as it is almost impossible to see it, among the foliage of the thick trees it frequents, without the aid of glasses. When starting in flight it utters a quick chuckling call, something like the ticking of a clock, but of course not so regular, and at times repeated more quickly. The ordinary note is “tee-tee-tee.”

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.	Extent.
♂	3·625	1·95	1·125	·5	·4375	5·5
♂	3·5	1·95	1	·5	·4375	5·5
♀	3·5	1·75	·875	·375	375	5·5

In both the males the side of the neck is brownish; and they

also have some black hairs on the head mixed with the scarlet feathers. The tail and wings are glossy steel-blue.

237. *DICÆUM CHRYSORHÆUM*. Yellow-vented Flower-pecker.

I believe that it is to this species, that a Flower-pecker procured by me at Mouhncin, in August 1865, ought to be referred, as Dr. Jerdon saw it at the same place. I subjoin the dimensions:—Length 3·625, wing 1·875, tarsus ·45, bill from front ·4375, extent 5·75 in. The bill is large and strong, with the upper mandible considerably curved, rather flat above near the nostrils, which are large. The upper mandible is pinkish-brown; and the tip of the lower is the same, shading underneath into yellow. The irides are dark brown, legs lead-colour.

Dr. Jerdon's description of this species is very scanty, and hardly sufficient for true identification.

DICÆUM TRIGONOSTIGMA (Scop.)?

A specimen shot at Mouhncin, September 18th, 1865 (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1866, p. 545), belongs either to this species or to the preceding. The following are its dimensions:—Length 3·3125, wing 1·875, tail ·9375, tarsus barely ·5, bill from front ·4375, extent 5·75 in. Irides dark brown; bill dark brown; gape and under mandible orange, excepting its tip, which is dark brown orange; legs plumbeous. Head and back ashy-green; wings ashy, with green edgings; quills brown, with ashy edgings; rump orange-yellow; upper tail-coverts dark green; tail dark brown, the feathers edged with dark bluish-green; a tinge of yellow under the lower mandible; throat ashy; abdomen and under tail-coverts bright yellow, with a tinge of green under the wings; under wing-coverts pure white.

241. *MYZANTHE IGNIPECTUS*. Fire-breasted Flower-pecker.

I observed this species in small parties, about the hill-roads at Darjeeling, where I collected specimens in 1862. Skins were sent to me at Simla, in June 1866, by Capt. Begbie, from Kotgurh. This is apparently the first time that this species has been noticed from the north-western Himalayas. On the 5th of July in that year a specimen was brought to me in the flesh by my native shikarry, on which I made the following notes:—Length 3·625, wing 1·875, tail 1, tarsus barely ·5, spread

of foot underneath .8125, bill from front .37, from gape 38, extent 5.75 in. Irides apparently dark brown; bill and legs jet-black; a glossy-green line extends along the middle of breast and abdomen, from the vermilion breast-patch to near the vent. I fail in seeing the propriety of separating this species from *Dicaeum*, and making it into a new genus, as has been done by Mr. Hodgson. Following the arrangement of Dr. Jerdon, it ought, in my opinion, to be placed next to *Dicaeum coccineum*, and certainly before *Piprisoma*.

243. *CERTHIA HIMALAYANA*. Himalayan Tree-creeper.

This bird is not at all uncommon in the cedar-woods about Simla. Specimens procured there, in 1866, have the following dimensions:—

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.	Extent.
A	5.5	2.75	2.125	.625	.75	7.95
B	5.2	2.625	2.125	.655	.625	7.75
C	4.375	2.25	1.5	.5	.4375	6.5
D	4.5	2.25	1.625	.5625	.5625	6.5

The last two are fully fledged young of the year, obtained 10th of May.

In the adult the hind claw alone is equal to .375 in. in length, and the bill can scarcely be termed "blackish" as by Dr. Jerdon, but may more correctly be described as having the upper mandible brown, and the lower one flesh-coloured, except at the tip, which is brown also; the legs are fleshy-brown. The superciliary streak in my specimens is fulvous-white; the tail is somewhat abraded; my first specimen, killed 11th of April, was shot whilst feeding at the foot of a tree-stump, amongst the moss and grass apparently. The second, killed on the 8th of May, had the upper mandible dark brown, almost black; the lower one was, like the first, flesh-coloured. On the 10th of May I shot a pair of young ones together on a deodar, in some crevice of which the nest had probably been; they were fully fledged, but a good deal smaller than the adult bird, as will be seen by the above table of their dimensions; their under tail-coverts and under wing-coverts were of a very fluffy character.

244. *CERTHIA NIPALENSIS*. Nepal Tree-creeper.

245. *CERTHIA DISCOLOR*. Sikhim Tree-creeper.

Both these were procured by me at Darjeeling, in 1862.

249. *SITTA LEUCOPSIS*. White-cheeked Nuthatch.

Observed by me at Mahasoo, beyond Simla in September 1866, on the bark of a half decayed pine (*Pinus excelsa*). The note of this species is very peculiar, more like that of a frog or insect, than that of a bird. It consists of a single harsh note, which I can hardly attempt to syllable. I noticed specimens in Dr. Stoliczka's collection, some of which were procured at Simla (*cf.* Ibis, 1868, p. 307), but I have never observed the species there. On the 2nd of October I secured one of a pair which were frequenting a half-decayed pine. The dimensions of my specimen in the flesh were as follows:—Length 5·375, wing 3, tail 1·75, tarsus ·6875, spread of foot 1·4375, bill from front ·6875, from gape ·875 in. The bill has the upper mandible and the terminal half of the lower black, the basal half of the lower being of a blue-lead colour; the legs are black; the irides brown. There is a white spot at the base of the winglet, which does not seem to be mentioned by Dr. Jerdon.

250. *SITTA CASTANEOVENTRIS*. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch.

I made my first acquaintance with this handsome little bird, when staying at Umballah with the late Dr. Scott (who had not previously observed it there, though Col. Tytler had), and on the 22nd of October, 1866, shot one in his garden. I give the dimensions of this specimen and of two others procured in the same locality a few days later.

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill from front.	Extent.
	5·125	2·95	1·5	·6875	·6875	8·75
♂ ..	5·125	3	1·5	·6875	·625	8·75
♀ ..	4·875	2·875	1·5	·625	·625	8·5

These specimens were killed in a grove of tamarisk trees, when apparently seeking for small insects. The black line, including the ear-coverts, from the eyes extends to *beyond* the nape on either side, which is not exactly as Dr. Jerdon tells us. The primaries have a white spot underneath at their base; the under tail-coverts are ashy-blue, tipped with dark cinnamon-colour; the two middle tail-feathers are grey, the rest are black

on their inner webs, with the outer webs greyish, the three outer pairs having a white spot on their inner webs, near the tip.

251. *SITTA CINNAMOMEVENTRIS*. Cinnamon-bellied Nuthatch.

I am nearly sure I observed one or two of this species when riding from Simla to Mahasoo, on the 29th of September, 1866; but as I did not procure a specimen, I cannot, of course, be positive on this point; for I see that Dr. Jerdon says it has only been procured from the South-eastern Himalayas, and neither Col. Tytler in his recent paper (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 196), nor Dr. Stoliczka in his (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 307), includes it, so that I may be mistaken.

253. *DENDROPHILA FRONTALIS*. Velvet-fronted Blue Nuthatch.

I procured my first and only specimen of this very beautiful little bird in Tennasserim, on the 18th of October, 1865. It was on my trip up Zwagaben, a limestone mountain near Moulmein (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1866, p. 2), when we had got to our first resting-place, halfway up the hill, where several "poongye" or priests' houses are situated in a beautiful little nook on the side of the mountain, under the shadow of some fine large shady trees, under which we rested and refreshed our weary selves whilst ever on the look-out for something new. I suddenly spied a solitary example of this beautiful little gem in the tree above me, and was cruel enough to use my gun upon it, for the sake of science, but much against the wishes, not only of my companions, but also of the Buddhist priests by whom I was surrounded. In fact it *did* seem a shame killing such a lovely little creature without good reason, and I must confess to feeling something more than a pang of regret after using the destroying weapon. However, as naturalists are popularly supposed to be without feelings, I must not here display mine, but proceed to record the dimensions of my specimen (which was rather smaller than those given by Dr. Jerdon), viz.:—Length 4·75, wing 2·7, tail 1·5, tarsus ·5, middle toe ·75, hind toe ·75, spread of foot underneath including the claws 1·5, bill from front ·625, extent

8·375 in. The bill was coral-red; the irides of the brightest yellow, and the legs and claws of a rusty-brown colour. The bird was apparently solitary, and climbing the bough of a large tree.

[To be continued.]

XXXVIII.—*On rare or little-known Limicolæ.*

By JAMES EDMUND HARTING, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

(Plate XII.)

[Continued from p. 310.]

NOTWITHSTANDING the vagrant habits of the species which compose the present group, and the increasing researches of naturalists in all quarters of the globe, it is remarkable that a bird which was described more than a century ago by Linnæus should still be one of the rarest and least-known. From a perusal of all that has hitherto been published with reference to this species, it would appear that those who followed more immediately in the wake of Linnæus did little else than copy his original description, perpetuating by so doing the erroneous habitat which had been assigned to the bird, and adding little or nothing to its history. Under the name of *Platalea pygmæa* or *Eurynorhynchus griseus* certain authors have created some confusion by describing birds which were properly referable to some other species, while the few original descriptions on record have all been taken from specimens which were procured in the winter plumage. For a long time the true habitat of *Eurynorhynchus* was unknown; and even at the present day its precise geographical range remains undetermined.

In the present paper I propose to set forth all the trustworthy information which I have been able to obtain concerning this remarkable bird, to point out the localities whence authentic specimens have been procured, and especially to direct attention to the summer plumage, which hitherto, so far as I am aware, has neither been figured nor described.

The synonymy will stand as follows:—